WHO SHOT BERTIE WOOSTER?

A Celebration of
P. G. Wodehouse Characters

By
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INTRODUCTION

My favorite movie has long been the1938 Cary Grant and Katherine Hepburn black and white classic Bringing Up Baby. In this film, the viewer is introduced to, or maybe one might say, forced into a world where insanity runs wild and common sense is extremely uncommon. Nothing happens as one would expect things to happen in the real world. The fast pace of this wild and zany story gradually sucks the audience into an absolutely unreal reality where anything can and will happen. This is a place where loony Doctors are themselves loony and the so-called normal people drive around with live leopards in the backseats of stolen cars.

The unreal and upside-down world portrayed in Binging Up Baby is very much like the unreal, outrageously crazy writings of P. G. Wodehouse, the creator of Jeeves the butler and Bertie Wooster. In the tumultuous world of Wodehouse's characters , the people and plots greatly resemble the craziness found in "Baby." That is to say, Wodehouse created a world where sanity is a rare condition and normality is for the most part nonexistent, and yet in such a crazy world, no one ever really gets hurt and the good guy always wins in the end. This is an idyllic world filled with sweet romance, grand house parties and round-the-world tours mixed in with a dash of some humorous non-lethal crime.

As a young boy, I longed to live in such an exciting, but safe and crazy reality, where the worst things that could happen to me would be that my aunt could ask that I give a silly speech at an all-girl primary school graduation or my current girl friend falls in love with my former best friend. I grew up during the very real times of the Vietnam War creating dire news headlines every night, as well as the lead up to and end of the Cold War. Internationally, nuclear weapon stockpiles were growing at alarming rates and

Communism was going to rollover the whole world as I knew it. At home, we heard of race riots in the cities and presidents, politicians, and others being gunned down in public. The “real” world scared me and I, like many others of my age turned to classic television comedies of the day such as “Gilligan's Island” and “I Dream of Genie” just to escape that “real” world. Unfortunately, I was much older by the time I finally discovered the writings of P. G. Wodehouse, but when I did, I immediately recognized my “lost unreal world of my youth” which I had searched for.

So, why the title Who Shot Bertie Wooster? What am I trying to portray here and what does the title have to do with this book?

Remember the TV show Dallas where for an entire year everyone was asking the the question oh who shot JR, a serious character played by the same actor who starred in the comical TV show, I dream of Genie. I am actually making a joke regarding the comical way the serious and the ridiculous of today’s life sometimes gets mixed together in a very funny way.

My title, like everything else in this world, doesn’t make sense. In fact, no one to my knowledge, ever took a shot at Wodhouse’s hero, Bertie Wooster. It is true that a neurotic butler tried to do him in with a carving knife while singing the old favorite hymn “Lead Kindly Light” and that Lord Sidcup, designer of ladies underclothes wanted to rip Bertie's head off and make him eat it, but no one ever shot Bertie Wooster with a gun. I could just as easily have titled the book something such as, Abnormal Psychology in Edwardian England or Why would an English Lord Have a Pig as his best friend? But, in the end, it is always Bertie Wooster who gets the headline because he represents everything that is good, funny, crazy, and outrageous in this very special world.

In this book, I try to describe P.G. Wodehouse’s special literary world through a celebration of the lives and families of Bertie Wooster, Lord Elmsworth, Mike Jackson, and others who have become some of my best friends. It is my hope that the reader may come to know love these wonderful people as I have and also learn to laugh at real life just as much as we laugh at Wodehouse’s crazy cast of characters. It is not just entertaining, reading Wodehouse is also a very healthy activity. An apple may keep the doctor away on any given day, but a good (and every one is good) Wodehouse book can keep the “loony doctor” away permanently.

This is not meant to be a book on P. G. Wodehouse or his life. It is not a scholarly study of any kind. The only research materials consulted in the writing of this book were the nearly one hundred novels and short stories written by Mr. Wodehouse. The only purpose for this study is introduce the many fun and frivolous members and friends of the Wooster, Threepwood, Jackson, and Twistleton families. This is their story. I start out telling Bertie Wooster’s story because he was the first Wodehouse hero I ever met. I know these Wodehouse books are timeless and will certainly be around years from now, still helping readers to learn to smile. Please enjoy yourself.

Part One: Bertram Wilberforce Wooster

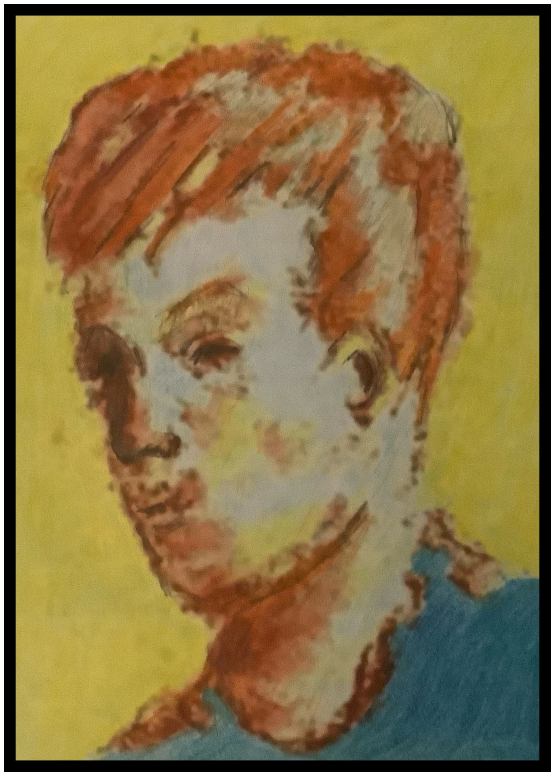
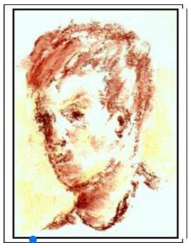


Figure of a Youth © 2005

For His anger is kindled against the wicked; They repent,
And in a moment it is turned away, And they are in his favor,
And He giveth them life: Therefore, weeping may endure for a night,
But, joy cometh in the morning.
Psalms30:5

Chapter One: Who is Bertie Wooster?



To begin with the truth, (always a good place to start) Bertie Wooster is, and has been, a very close friend of mine. To many people, this statement may seem somewhat strange as that Bertie Wooster is only a fictional character invented by P.G.Wodehouse, and to my knowledge he was never based on a real-world person. The question then arises if it is possible to even consider fictional characters as close friends? This question may just be an extension of the zany, outrageous effect that Wodehouse has on his readers. I admit that I have fallen headfirst for Wodehouse's spell and no matter what is real, I seem to want to start this book by declaring that Bertie Wooster is a very close friend of mine.

I really am not sure where or even how to begin this chapter about Bertie Wooster. It seems as if I have always known Bertie as a friend and find it hard to imagine my life without him. But, in looking over what I have already written, it is clear that I have not even began to explain who Bertie is or what there is about him that deserves a book to his honor. As the reader can see, I really am stuck on how to even start.

I guess the best way to start is to be absolutely honest about the man, or if it makes the reader more comfortable, I will say that I need to be truthful about this fictional character. Bertie Wooster is a character who represents a nobody in this world. He may have lots of money, but he has never done anything spectacular to show he deserves his money. He has never had the desire to be in the public light by running for office or making news of any kind. He just enjoys spending time with his friends, playing music, and staying out of the local headlines. That being said, I must say that Bertie is always in trouble and his name is always repeated within the local social grapevine.

In all the years that I have known him, I must confess that I have never learned where Bertie Wooster's personal story began. I mean, I assume that he was born somewhere and at sometime, but that blessed event has never been documented. Much like Peter Pan and other such "lost boys", Bertie Wooster not only didn't grow up, it seems that he was never born. So unlike most good histories that explain the beginnings of the hero, this story is going to have to begin without a birth date, birth parents, or even a mention of his home life as a child.

Bertie Wooster seems to have lived the most of his life in another time, place, and reality, far, far away from any time or place that can be marked by real world history. Yet, I can put a date to the first I ever met this so-called long lost brother or a best friend in times of need. It was during the 1990s when I tuned into the comical British TV series, Wooster and Jeeves, then being aired on Public Television. It was this TV series that introduced me into the fascinating world of P.G. Wodehouse, and I soon found that I preferred that world to any other form of reality.

In Bertie Wooster's world, I found a life so bizarre and laughable that I just had to study every detail of his wacky and crazy world. Although the television shows were wonderfully written and produced, it was not until I had literally consumed every written word regarding Bertie Wooster that Bertie actually became a living and breathing person in my life, or in my sometimes less than stable mind.

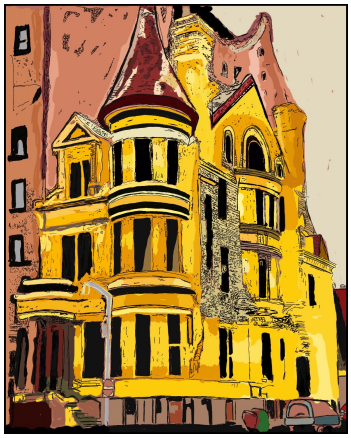
Have you ever tried to describe someone who is a really close friend, but just couldn't find the words that would do the person justice? You may have begun by saying something like, "He has brownish hair, bluish eyes and is rather tallish, but not too tall," and so on, but in the end you realized that you didn't really describe your friend at all. This is the problem I have found when trying to explain Bertie Wooster to someone who has never met him. However, if I am to get this book off on the right foot, so to speak, I "jolly well" (as Bertie would say) have to take a stab at explaining just who this man is and why anyone would want to know him.

I have no knowledge of the color of Bertie Wooster's eyes or even his height and weight, but there is some indication that Bertie's hair may be of a reddish hue. However, I can say with full authority that Bertie Wooster sports no a beard or whiskers of any kind. Such facial hair has never been never allowed him by his man servant Jeeves.

Other than this very superficial description, there is no other way to describe Bertie Wooster, the hero of this book and the man at the center of P. G. Wodehouse's world, other than to look at Bertie Wooster's own world through his own eyes. Over the past fifteen years, I have scoured the thousands of written pages dedicated to the life of Bertie Wooster looking for every clue that may define him and his world, and in so doing, I believe it is possible to paint a vivid portrait of him.

Therefore, I will have to rely on Bertie's own words and stories of his childhood, schooling, career (or lack of one), and hobbies that I will have to use in order to show Bertie Wooster as a real person. The same needs to be said of his family and friends, all of whom live in his same world and for the most part are just as hard to explain.

Although, most people who read P.G. Wodehouse's books (or who are at least familiar with the television series) seem to focus much of their love and attention on Bertie's overly intelligent butler or gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves. I, however, have always maintained that Bertie Wooster is the real hero or the true main character of the Wooster and Jeeves adventures. Bertie would always be a Bertie even without Jeeves, but in many ways Jeeves needs a Bertie in order to be fulfilled as a Jeeves. In other words, Bertie Wooster's incompetence never needs a Jeeves to prove that he is incompetent, but Jeeves' superiority always needs an incompetent Bertie in order to shine.



It is true that Jeeves seems to always have the answers, but it is Bertie who creates all of the excitement and the passion in his life. Bertie's personality is really quite complex, while Jeeves in most respects, remains only a two-dimensional character actor with very little emotion beyond feeding his brain to fix the world. For this very reason, I have started with Bertie and will wait until later to explore the character of Jeeves. I wish to give Bertie Wooster the credit that he is due, without having to compete with Jeeves at the very first.

Very people in this so-called real life, seemed to have known Bertie Wooster as a child. Many first became acquainted with Bertie as a young man of some means living in a "present day" Edwardian like city of London. This generally happens in a short story entitled "Jeeves Takes Charge"[i] first published in November 1916[ii]. (Note: Bertie Wooster was actually introduced into this world earlier in the year 1916 in another short story entitled "Extracting Young Gussie" which narrates an account chronologically later in Bertie's life.)

How old was Bertie Wooster at this point in his life? His actual age we are ever told, but he was old enough to be living on his own, yet, despite his age, he was still young enough to be treated like a child by his aunts, and that is all the world really knows.

At this point in time, Bertie Wooster was residing at his somewhat permanent flat in the Berkeley Mansions building situated in the posh W1 postal district of London. Although he can generally be found flitting about from one country house to another, Bertie always seems to return to this flat to recover from some foul plot or a fortunately failed wedding engagement. It is in "Jeeves Takes Charge" that Bertie Wooster engages his Gentleman's Gentleman Jeeves, a man with whom he is rarely parted from and is credited with keeping Bertie out of several ill-formed marriages, prison cells, and most importantly the "loony-bin."

In summary, Bertie Wooster is like the goofy friend everyone seems to know. Someone who will do anything for his friends when forced to do so, no matter what the cost to his reputation or personal dignity. Bertie loves a romance, just as long as it is someone else's romance.

You must clearly understand that Bertie is most definitely afraid of personal commitment in his own life. He is tough enough to ride 18 miles on a bicycle in the dead of night just to retrieve a set of misplaced house keys and he is tender enough to admit that he is never too old to play with his rubber duck in the bath. But, he is not strong enough to commit to any romantic feelings.

Bertie truly loves his family, but only from a distance. True, he has been known once in awhile to enjoy vacationing with his Aunt Dahlia and Cousin Angela in Cannes, but most of the time he prefers to keep his distance from his various aunts, uncles and other such relations. However, when called upon, Bertie will willingly perform acts of kindness even to his most antagonistic Aunt Agatha who considers him less than a lowly insect on one of her good days.

And so, this light, yet comic, story about Bertie Wooster is for all to enjoy the wonderful adventures of a rudderless, incompetent and most of all incomprehensible young man who cannot stay out of trouble. I hope the reader can enjoy a few good laughs as the life and times of this man we love to call our friend are examined and re-examined in this humble book.

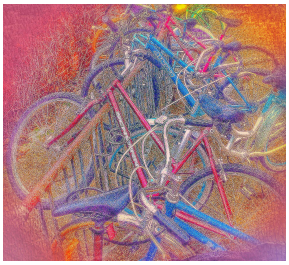
Notes:
[i] The World of Jeeves/Carry On, Jeeves
[ii] Index of Short Stories from Edward J. O'Brien's THE BEST SHORT STORIES (1915 - 1917)

Chapter 2: Bertie’s Childhood Experiences

Bertram Wilberforce Wooster was once a young child, but not a lot is known of his early days. The few details that are known however, are extremely important to understanding how Bertie evolved from a mere child to a wonderfully incompetent adult. Most of what anyone knows of his childhood is learned from the compilations of stories or brief snatches of remembrances that Bertie and his friends share from time to time when trying to make a delicate point or explain a certain awkward situation. Some of these snippets of the past are very brief and without a lot of context, while others are well-known and developed stories which are told over and over again. Hopefully, through these stories the reader can piece together in some fashion a picture of what Bertie must have been like during his childhood and school days.

The earliest story of Bertie’s childhood is told by his good aunt, Aunt Dahlia. One day while Bertie was in Aunt Dahlia's care as a young baby, Bertie somehow accidentally swallowed his rubber pacifier. His aunt, being the loving person she is, quickly pulled the pacifier out and saved Bertie from suffocating.

Nothing else is known about this incident besides the plain facts that Bertie swallowed the thing and that his aunt saved his life. No matter how simple a story like this may be, Bertie's Aunt Dahlia has gotten good mileage out of it. Later in life when Bertie has caused her pain or consternation, Aunt Dahlia will sometimes remark that she should have just let Bertie choke on his pacifier.[i] Such stories as this go a long way in explaining later events and how well the Wooster family can rally around one of its own when he is really down.



Later as a grammar school lad, Bertie excelled in both academic and sporting events. One year he actually won the school scripture knowledge prize presumably based on his understanding of the biblical story of Balaam and his ass. Some scoff and suggest that he somehow cheated to win this coveted prize, but he did in fact take top billing that year as the most knowledgeable in religious studies.

This scripture knowledge award has always been a point of pride to Bertie because it is evidence that he seemed to be at one time a very bright scholar. But, this story does not end with the winning of the prize. The more interesting part came later when the school prizes were being given out. As Bertie tells the story, the presenter of the prizes dropped a book and when he bent over to pick it up he split his pants wide open. As anyone could imagine, such a spectacle could not help but become the highlight of the entire prize awarding program and something which would be laughed about for years to come.[ii]

About the same time as the aforementioned academic contest, Bertie also proved to be an sturdy athlete on the sporting field by winning a local bicycle race. This amazing feat was accomplished because all of the better racers where either disqualified or could not show up for the race. Nevertheless, Bertie did win the race.

Later at while a student at Oxford, Bertie was also well known for his bicycle skills, but not necessarily for his racing speed. It seems that sometimes after he had been drinking a bit, Bertie would take off all his clothes and ride a bicycle around the quad in the nude. Although, such stories about Bertie are rarely by Bertie himself, as that he doesn't seem to proud of these events, but former school friends don't mind reciting these stories anyway.[iii]

During his school holidays, Bertie would visit the country homes of his various aunts and uncles. I have often wondered why he never stayed at home with his own parents, but it seems that there are no records of him ever living with his immediate family.

Bertie should have learned a valuable lesson from these early holiday experiences in the country, that is to say, these early experiences should have made him aware of the dangers of such treacherous places. However, unfortunately even as an adult, Bertie still continues to find trouble by getting himself invited to stay at some out-of-the-way country estate.

Bertie has many vivid memories of staying at his Aunt Dahlia's and Uncle Tom's place, Brinkley Court. His Uncle Tom it seems was terrified that the house someday was going to burn down with all of the family inside. Therefore, Tom would orchestrate regular fire drills and Bertie remembers that the Brinkley Court fire bell could be heard for miles.[iv]

Bertie also spent some holidays with his mildly vicious Aunt Agatha. While staying with Agatha, Bertie remembers having to participate in amateur theater events. For one of these productions, Bertie had to play King Edward III.[v] Unfortunately there is no record of how well this play was received or how well he played his part.

During one of his summer holidays, Bertie made a spectacular collection of wild flowers to be displayed during his next term at school. Apparently, as this story is told, his holiday flower project was so outstanding that his school awarded him a prize. No mention is made regarding the nature of this prize, but his Aunt Agatha regularly tells Bertie that he has not done anything else in his life worthy of any notice ever since he won the flower prize.[vi]

It is interesting to note that in his later years, Bertie seems to have given up such interests as flowers. In fact, the subject of daisies and daisy chains absolutely sicken him when mentioned by his former fiancée, Madeline Bassett. Madeline believes that the stars in the heavens are God's daisy chains. She also has a few weird beliefs regarding bunny rabbits.

Another popular childhood story concerns one of Bertie's favorite pastimes of smoking cigars. Bertie recalls that he smoked his first cigar at age fifteen[vii]. He doesn't say much about whether he liked the cigar, except only to say that it was one of Lord Worplesdon's finest. The fact that Bertie actually stole the cigar from Lord Worplesdon's house is much more the point of the story than whether or not he enjoyed smoking it. Bertie vividly remembers his future Uncle Percy (the present Lord Worplesdon) chasing him with a hunting crop when Bertie was discovered with that fine cigar. Bertie never did measure up in his

Uncle Percy's eyes after that incident. Their relationship later in life seems to have been soured by Bertie's behavior as a juvenile. Then again, Percy's marrying Bertie's least favorite aunt, Aunt Agatha, did not improve this situation either.

The most pivotal experience of Bertie's childhood is something that happened early on in private school and has haunted Bertie for the remainder of his life. While in his headmaster's study one day, Bertie discovered the location of the headmaster's hidden stash of cookies, or as Bertie calls them, biscuits.

Being determined to help himself to a midnight treat at the expense of the Rev. Aubrey Upjohn, the school's headmaster, Bertie slipped out of his room one night after everyone else had gone to bed. He stole secretly into the Rev. Upjohn's study and had just put his hand into the cookie jar, or biscuit tin, when Bertie noticed that his headmaster was watching his every move from the other side of the desk.

The look that registered in the Reverend's eyes was one that cannot be forgotten. This one" look" etched forever in Bertie's mind is the "look" by which all other angry, disgusted and hateful "looks" experienced later in life are measured. And, it is to be presumed that very few "looks" have ever matched or exceeded that one "look."

No matter if it was pacifier swallowing, scripture memorizing, bicycle riding, flower collecting, cookie stealing, or cigar smoking, Bertie's childhood education was filled with action, excitement, fame, honor, and sometimes humiliation. One thing is for sure. These experiences prepared him for what was to follow in his later years. The following are two stories about the adult Bertram Wooster which go to show that some things never change.

Later in life, Bertie tells all of a harrowing experience he once had speaking at a girl's school. Apparently, one of Bertie Wooster's grand social position may sometimes be asked to address local schools touching on the various topics of the day. Such an invitation did come Bertie's way once and not knowing any better, he accepted the assignment.

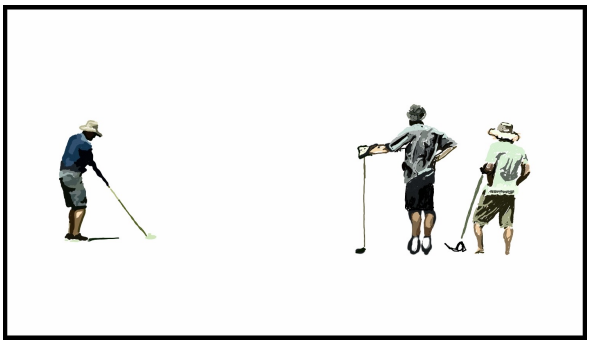
No other details are known about this speaking engagement, but according to Bertie it was one of the most beastly things he has ever done. He goes as far to say that his friend Gussie Fink-Nottle's drunken speech at the prize giving ceremony at the Market Snodsbury Grammar School pales when compared to Bertie's experience at the girl's school. This episode has colored Bertie's view of both girl's schools and public speaking, and also may help explain some of his other social phobia-like actions that have caused him to shy away from the public light.

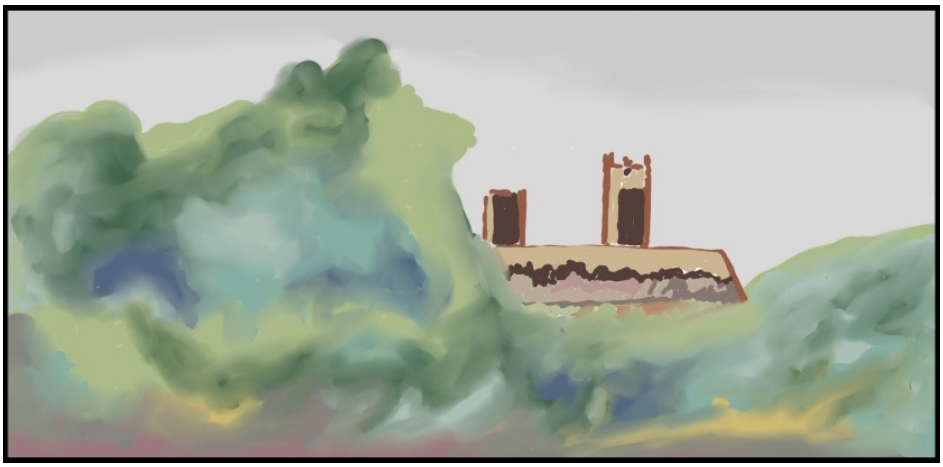
Possibly the most public humiliation that Bertie ever suffered happened at his own club, the Drones Club. [viii] One evening at the club, Tuppy Glossop bet Bertie couldn't cross over the club swimming pool in full evening dress by swinging on the rings that spanned the water.

Not willing to run from such a bet, Bertie set out over the pool, swinging from ring to ring. As Bertie approached the finish line, Tuppy, much to Bertie's dismay, had looped the last ring back out of reach of the swinging acrobat in formalwear. Having no where to go and not being able to hang on forever, Bertie was forced to drop into the water, tuxedo and all. Tuppy's subsequent pleadings for Bertie's help in wooing Angela Travers (Bertie's cousin) almost fell on deaf ears because of the painful memories of this forced swim.

So, as the reader can plainly see, there is a great deal that can be learned about a person just from retelling a few old stories. For example, we can deduce that Bertie Wooster is a man who will steal another's cookie or cigar if he feels the need; He likes to compete as an athlete, scholar, or amateur actor, even if he lacks that talent or the skill to succeed; and, He is a man who will take a risk and doesn't fear wagering a small bet from time to time. Yet, underneath all this manliness, there lives a gentle, romantic who still recalls the days when he would collect flowers and look forward to being a pleasant guest at the country estate of a near relative.

Notes:
[i] Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 20
[ii] Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 16
[iii] Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 22
[iv]Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 22
[v] Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 10
[vi] The World of Jeeves, Jeeves in the Springtime”
[vii] Joy in the Morning, Chapter 1
[viii] Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 8





Chapter Three: Schools and University

Bertie Wooster began his academic life at a private grammar school called Malvern House, Bromley-on-Sea[i], a traditional British boarding school. This academic institution, obviously unlike the American neighborhood grade school, offered Bertie greater opportunities to excel in life. At Malvern House Bertie was nurtured under the guidance of the Rev. Aubrey Upjohn M.A., the school's dour headmaster.

It was at this private grammar school, where early in his childhood Bertie first made friends with many of the colorful people who continue to turn up from time to time in his life. It was also here that Bertie won his two distinguished prizes, the first being "six of the juiciest" (hits/spanks) supplied from the scholarly Rev. Upjohn for stealing biscuits, and second the scripture knowledge prize for remembering the details of Balaam and his ass. Both of these life-changing experiences are greatly responsible for the man Bertie later became.

At Malvern House, Bertie met many of his lifelong friend, including Tuppy Glossop, Gussie Finknottle, Kipper Herring, etc. FromMalvern House, Bromley-on-Sea, Bertie moved on to England's most prestigious public school, or college prep school, Eton. This period of his academic life has neverbeen documented in any great detail. Even with knowing very little about this period, Bertie's record clearly indicates that it was at Eton where he first became acquainted with many other of his close friends who also have followed him through out the remainder of his life. At Eton Bertie met such friends as Lord Chuffnell (Chuffy), Bingo Little, Monty Bodkin and possibly even the Hon. Freddie Threepwood, son of Lord Elmsworth, the owner of the prize winning pig named the Empress.

After Eton, Bertie attended Magdalen College at Oxford.[ii] Again, his scholastic record is quite lacking in detail and we know very little regarding his college life. No one seems to even remember what courses he may have studied. Quite possibly he did not attend all of his classes and he certainly did not play varsity sports like many of his contemporaries. The closest Bertie ever got to participating in a university athletic event was the time he stole a policeman's helmet while celebrating a win at the Oxford and Cambridge boat race.

Bertie did try to do some rowing at while at Oxford. Stilton Cheesewright was his his the coach, but nothing ever came of this activity. [iii] Joy c3 One time after an Oxford bump-supper whatever that is, Bertie had had too much to drink. Saying he thought he was a mermaid Bertie tried to dive into the college fountain and play the harp. At least, that is what his close friend Chuffy says happened.

School, to Bertie Wooster, was always just a place to make friends and to explore the world. It wasn't necessarily a place to receive an education. Bertie Wooster may have attended school, but, in the category of brains, he cannot claim to have been educated. Then again, with his mounds of unexplained money, Bertie has never really needed to depend on a collage degree to live his life. Having the use of Jeeves' brain has been all that Bertie has needed and Jeeves has gotten him out of most of his troubles. Therefore, Bertie really does not have a need for any other degree or certifica te. Headmasters, professors, and college deans may rest at ease, graduate school is definitely not for Bertie Wooster

Notes:
[i] The Mating Season, Chapter Nine
[ii] The Code of the Woosters, Chapter 4
[iii] Joy in the Morning, Chapter 3

Chapter Four: Work

Why doesn't Bertie Wooster work or seem to ever had a job? When meeting someone for the first time, it is only natural to inquire about the person's line of business. After all, a person's occupation says a lot about that person and his or her life in general. One's career may go a long way to explain one's personal goals and interests, and the details of a person's job will reflect on that person's social status, learning, and background.

What, then can one deduce from the fact that Bertie Wooster has never been employed? Does he not need to work? One time when his Aunt Dahlia told Bertie she had a job form, he simply replied that he had no desire to work.[i] However, the more simple and direct answer to these questions are that Bertie doesn't seem to need the money. He has even gone so far as to admit several times that he is "loaded with the stuff". But, this so-called simple answer does not seem to explain enough of this simple man.

After reexamining the facts of the case, another probable answer is revealed. In a nutshell, it is that Bertie Wooster is not be fit for any type of work. Anyone who has followed Bertie Wooster's history would already know that he has never worked a nine-to-five job in his life. In fact, those close to him will say that, with the exception of struggling with a crossword puzzle or a mystery novel, Bertie very rarely is seen working at all. Enamored of the quiet peaceful life, something his demanding aunts, former fiancées, and childhood friends rarely allow him to enjoy, Bertie Wooster lives a life too full for devoting his much valued time to a regular job.

Even though, Bertie Wooster has never held down a real job, he has been suspected over the years of having been associated with several lines of business. For example, some of his acquaintances at different

times have accused Bertie of being an author or writer. This rumor was never really true, though his Aunt Dahlia once engaged him to write an article on “What the Well Dressed Gentleman is Wearing” for her women’s magazine called Milady Boudoir[ii].

The true story about Bertie being an author began because he pretended for a short while that he was a famous writer of romantic novels appearing under the pen name of Rosie M. Banks. When the real Rosie M. Banks, (a young lady who later became the wife of Bertie’s good friend Bingo Little), exposed him to be a fake, Bertie had to come clean.

He and his friend Bingo had to admit that the pretense was nothing more than a scheme to help Bingo extort spending money from an uncle who was addicted to romantic stories. And so, ended Bertie’s very short career of writing.

Bertie, also at one time, was employed as a publisher. His only published book was one called The Children's Book of American Birds. This book was financed entirely by Bertie and was ghost written by Sam Patterson for Muriel Singer, the young lady who later became Mrs. Alexander Worple. Muriel Singer was also the author of the books American Birds and More American Birds. Thus whole episode, again, was just another attempt by Bertie to gain something he couldn’t obtain though more straight forward means.

When Bertie Wooster was just a mere grammar school student, many believed that his future career should have been in the Church. As was mentioned in the previous chapter that at a young age Bertie won his most coveted prize, the school Scripture Knowledge Prize. As many a close friend will confirm and Bertie will take great pains to explain that this prize was evidence of his religious learning. This prize is always mentioned whenever the subject scripture knowledge may causally come up in a conversation.

Of course, he should be proud of such an accomplishment if he really did deserve the prize, but many people, maybe even his closest friends, suspect that Bertie Wooster may have obtained that grand, spiritual prize dishonestly disqualifying him for a career in the Church. Honest or dishonest, his involvement with the Church, in later life, was restricted to less spiritual activities, such as helping a love-crazed curate steal policeman helmets for a girl and participating in illegal gamboling schemes by betting on the local choirboy foot race.

Bertie also began his so-called career in crime, while still in grammar School, by burgling his head master’s study for cookies. Even though this grammar school crime wave was short lived, Bertie has never been able to convince some people that he is not a hardened criminal with the desire to steal anything that isn’t nailed down.

The famous jungle explorer, Major Plank, is still convinced that Bertie Wooster is common thief going by the nick-name Alpine Joe. Under this pseudonym Bertie was accused of making his living braking into country homes and stealing rare jungle artifacts. The dictator Spode and the magistrate Sir Watkyn Bassett, both life-time members of the anti-Bertie Wooster club, firmly believe that Bertie can not help himself when it comes to stealing umbrellas and silver cow creamers.

Of course, it is ridiculous to suppose that Bertie would intentionally steal anyone’s umbrella as that he seemingly already has a good supply of his own umbrellas. However, it is true that his Aunt Dahlia did once forcefully involved Bertie in a hair-brained plot to recover or steal a much sought after cow creamer for his Uncle’s silver collection. But, in the end, Bertie Wooster’s reputation as a member of the criminal class has been based on a series of well-meaning misunderstandings.

Such misunderstandings seem to follow Bertie around wherever he goes. And so it is that Bertie Wooster failed even in a career as a member of the criminal underworld.

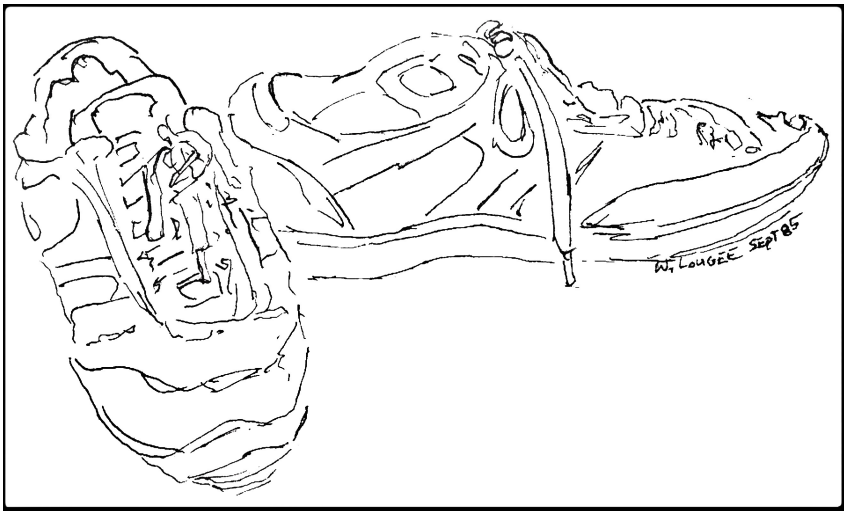
There are other professions that at one time or another has seemed to occupy Bertie Wooster's attention. Possibly the most legitimate career that he could have signed up for would be that of professional musician. Everyone should know that Bertie does love music, especially music hall music, a type of music not appreciated by Jeeves.

Bertie will sometimes play a musical instrument called a banjolele, possibly a kind of banjo. In fact, Bertie once faced with the choice of continuing to play the banjolele or losing the service of Jeeves. For a short time, Bertie chose his music and the banjole, only to later regret it very much. On one occasion, Bertie attempt to dress up and play his banjole with a minstrel band on the American millionaire Pop Stoker's yacht. He had hope to pick a few professional tips from the band, but at the end of the day, he had to sneak off the boat, avoiding an unpleasant situation without getting a chance to play.

The list of possible careers goes on and on. Bertie Wooster could have gone into anything if only he possessed the talent and the desire to do so. But, without talent and desire, Bertie is probably better off just being a pampered, rich, eligible young man, and also, as Jeeves would say, mentally negligible too. As luck would have it, Bertie Wooster is not responsible for producing anything that society requires and society is better off with him standing on the sidelines doing nothing at all.

Notes:

[i] The World of Jeeves Bertie Page 9
[ii] The World of Jeeves



Chapter five: Bertie's Wardrobe

Even as Bertie Wooster was writing his magazine article on "What the Well Dressed Gentleman is Wearing" for his aunt, he knew he was fighting a losing battle. His man Jeeves has for many years supervised his wardrobe and Bertie has had little chance to personally wear what Bertie believes that the well dressed gentleman should wear. Jeeves is a great believer in the moral effect of clothes and does not approve of the latest fads in a gentleman's wardrobe.

With the exception of his overwhelming intelligence, the other important thing that must be understood about Bertie's man Jeeves is that he is a man with a certain particular taste in gentlemen's clothing. In Jeeves' conservative mind, some things are to be worn and others are not to be worn. Over the years, Bertie has tried to make Jeeves understand the modern fashion of dress, but in the end, Jeeves always wins out.

Without a backbone to call his own, Bertie Wooster always bends to Jeeves' fashion decrees. The running gag between Bertie and his friends is that Bertie is his own man and makes the decisions in his household. However, the facts are clear. Bertie must get Jeeves' fashion approval before he can go out in public. The following is just a partial list of all the items of clothing that Jeeves has vetoed over the years:

1.Checked suits
2.Fruity scarlet cummerbunds
3.Blue suits with faint red stripes 4.Purple Socks
5.Cloth-topped Boots
6.Pink ties
7.Broadway Special hats (Jeeves wanted Bertie to wear the same hat the U.S. President was wearing.)
8.Green-shaded ties
9. Old Etonian spats (A spat is a shoe coverings, short for spatterdash)
10. Soft silk or soft bosomed shirts for evening wear (Hard fronted shirts are preferred.)
11.Plus-fours (Baggy pants fastened below the knees)
12.White mess jackets (Bertie's Aunt Dahlia said that this made him look like a restaurant maître d'.)
13. Heliotrope pajamas (Light shade of purple) Bertie wears these in Thank You Jeeves Chapter 6 or rather it is the American girl, Pauline Stoker, who actually wears Bertie's heliotrope pajamas.
14. Green shaded ties: They give him a slightly bilious air.
15. Mustaches or facial hair

Here is a list of Bertie's clothes that are approved by Jeeves:

1. Heather-mixture suit
2. Brown lounge with faint green twill
3. Dove, light blue, and mauve colored silk shirts Tan socks
4. Blue tie with red domino pattern

Frequently Bertie's choice of clothes to be worn in public is not approved by Jeeves and Bertie finds that he cannot get needed assistance from Jeeves until he wears what Jeeves approves of.

Chapter Six: The Drones Club

In Bertie Wooster's London, there are clubs for the stuffy, well-to-do serious people, such as the Senior Conservative Club. There are even clubs that cater to "working stiffs" such as butlers. Jeeves belongs to one such club called the Junior Ganymede Club, in Curzon Street. [i] And, then there are the clubs for the frivolous ones who seem to have no direction in life. The Drones Club, of which Bertie Wooster is a well known and active member, is a clinic which falls definitely into this later category.

Bertie has always belonged to the Drones Club. There seems to be no documentation that shows that Bertie has membership in any other club.The Drones Club is more of a zoo than a regular social organization with activities such as play indoor cricket with dinner rolls in the dinning room being a standard practice.

All of Bertie's male friends and associates belong to this Metropolitan fraternity of aimless young men and Bertie fits into this society quite well. The Drones Club name alone because suggests, the Club is an organization of wastrels who either have too much money to want to work, or have too little and show up just to touch someone for more spending money.

Drones Club has no rules, or at the very least, it has very few rules regarding

public display of revelry or protest. It certainly is not a dull place. Chaos and confusion abound at almost any hour of the day.

The main occupation of the diners in the club dinning hall is bread, or roll, throwing and other types of food fights which seem to take place at every meal. Gamboling of any kind also runs rampant in the club. Wagers are made on anything from “who will be the next club member to get married” to “what will the next person to walk through the door be wearing”. Contests have even been held in which members using a slingshot and walnuts vie to knock off the top hats of pedestrians outside in the street.

Not just an ordinary member, Bertie is a club regular. If he cannot be found at home, he surely will be found at the Drones Club. When Bertie is in town, he generally lunches daily at the club. When he is in the country, he still manages to find a group of club members to hang around with until he can find his way back to the city and their club.

It is not surprising that in many ways, Bertie Wooster’s fundamental life is centered around the chaotic activities and members of the Drones Club. His personal life seems to be organized on the same bylaws that the club is founded on.

Note:

[i] Much Obliged Jeeves, Chapter 1

Chapter Seven: Pseudonyms or Other Names Bertie has Used

Over the years, Bertie Wooster has sometimes found it convenient to be known by an another name than Bertram W. Wooster. These are generally times when he is standing before a magistrate or other officer of the law after being caught in a compromising situation or when he is undertaking a slightly repugnant task demanded of his aunts. By the middle of the second full-length novel regarding the life of Bertie Wooster, he is noted to be bragging that he has been hauled up before the law on three different occasions and has yet to give his real name.

Bertie also tells us that he has only been in jail twice in he career. The first time was when he gave his name as Eutace H. Plimsoll to the Judge. The second time was on Boat Race night when he and his friend Oliver Sipperley stole a policeman's' helmet. [iii]

The following is a list of a few names Bertie Wooster has used in his long and eventful life:
1. Bungling Wooster (A name he was know by at School according to Headmaster Upjohn.[i]
2. Eustace H. Plimsoll, The Laburnums, Alleyn Road West Dulwich[ii]
3. Alpine Joe, Address Unknown

Notes:

[i] How Right You Are, Jeeves, Chapter 4
[ii] Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 15
[iii] Thank You Jeeves, chapter 12

Chapter Eight: Bertie Wooster’s Interests and Other Miscellaneous Information

The following list contains the songs Bertie can play on his Banjolele, the piano, or songs he just likes to sing. Some of these songs may still be sung today, but others have been long forgotten:

1. Old Man River
2. The Wedding of the Painted Doll
3. Singin’ In the Rain
4. Three Little Words
5. Goodnight, Sweetheart
6. My Love Parade
7. Spring Is Here
8. Whose Baby Are You?
9. I Want an Automobile With a Horn That Goes Toot-Toot
10. I lift Up My Finger And I Say Tweet-Tweet
11. Body and Soul
12. What Is This Thing Called Love?
13. Sonny Boy
14. Happy Days are Here Again
15. The Yeoman’s Wedding Song

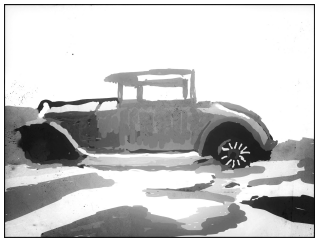
Here are a list of places that have proven dangerous for Bertie Wooster:

1. The rhododendron shrubbery: Bertie seems to always meet a former fiancée in such places.
2. French Windows: This is where bad guys enter or exit, or for others to overhear what they shouldn't have heard in the first place
3. Potting Sheds: These sheds seem like good places to hide or sleep, but often become traps
4. Yachts: Yachts are places to be held captive. Bertie has only been on two yachts in his life, The Stoker's yacht and another about the same size one year at Cowes.

Important Wooster Quotes:

1. Bertie loves quote the poet Keats when he described Cortez as he first view the Pacific Ocean.
2. He quotes Shakespeare: The man who hadn't music in him was fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils.
3. He again quotes Shakespeare: "Like a worm i' the bud, feed on her damask cheek"
4. Bertie has said, You can lead a horse to the altar, but you can't make it drink.
5. He again quotes Shakespeare: Letting 'I dare not' wait upon 'I would,' Like the poor cat i' the adage?

Car:
Bertie drives a Widgeon Seven, 2 seater with all six cylinders



Books Bertie reads:
1. The Masked Seven, featuring private investigator Drexdale Yeats
2. Types of Ethical Theory, given to him to read by Florence Craye, Bertie's one time fiancé
3. I believe Bertie also reads books by Edgar Wallace

Bertie Woosterisms:

Bertie Wooster's language can be quite colorful at times. He has a way of inserting laughter into any situation by just opening his mouth and speaking what ever is on his mind. Many of his expressions, not readily understandable by those not of Bertie's generation, can usually be deciphered by reading between the lines of the text. The examples of "Woosterisms" included below are for the reader's pure enjoyment. Can anyone imagine using such terms today?

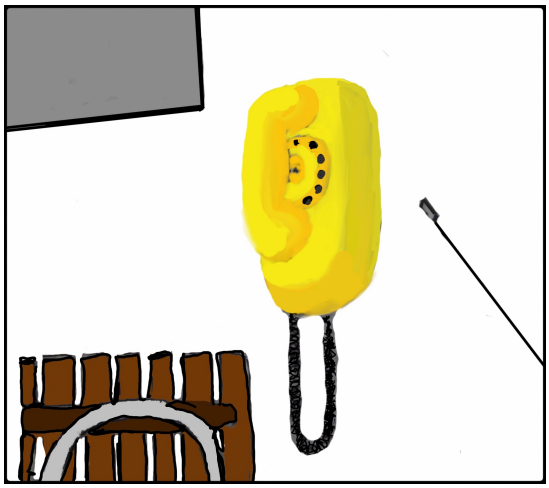
WOOSTERISMS:

1. Ballyragging: Chewing someone out
2. Bookers: A bookstore
3. Booms-a-dasy: Being in a good situation where all has worked out for the best
4. Centre-aisle-ing: Getting Married
5. Dumb Chums: Any form of animal life, but usually referring to Gussie's newts
6. Endowed with Oomph: Has money
7. Fruity: Something extreme, as in a "Fruity Reputation"
8. Foul Strait-Waistcoat Specialist: A Loony Doctor
9. Getting on the outside of (food): Eating (putting the food on the inside)
10. Oomphs-ooBmpus: Has all of the right stuff
11. Phones-Bolonus: Baloney, drivel, hot air
12. Puguglies: Evil people like Aunt Agatha, her stepchildren and her neighbors in general
13. Rannygazoo: Intentional or inadvertent trouble making, such as burning down a house
14.Substantial bit of Goose: Strange or chaotic happenings, commotion, or funny business
15. The Old Flesh and Blood: A close relative, usually his Aunt Dahlia.
16. The Old Thicker than Water: A close relative, usually his Aunt Dahlia.
17. The Peroxied: A blackmailing fake blond woman type.
18. The Fungus: A beard, possibly a fake one

Cities:

There are really only two cities in Bertie's world. It is A Trail of Two Cities: London and New York. Bertie spends his time in England, divided between the countryside and London. When Bertie just says "the city" in most cases he is referring to either London or New York.

While staying in New York, Bertie spend a great deal of time hanging out in the Washington Square neighborhood. He tells of one time while on the street in Washington Square that he was knocked over by a young kid flying down the street on roller skates. He was hit in the mid section right around the third button on his waistcoat. In later years he would compare any other great shock with the shock he received from the roller skater that day in Washington Square.



Chapter Nine: Bertie’s Communications or Miscommunications

When Bertie Wooster communicates long distance, usually sends telegrams, which at times can be quite expensive. Sometimes Bertie only sends one or two words leaving the rest of the message to be interpreted by the other party. At other times, Bertie can be rather wordy, not worrying the least about cost. Here are a few examples of Bertie’s communications:

Aunt: Come at once. Travers.

Nephew: Perplexed. Explain. Bertie.

Aunt: What on earth is there to be perplexed about, ass? Come at once. Travers.

Nephew: How do you mean come at once? Regards. Bertie.

Aunt: I mean come at once, you maddening half-wit. What did you think I meant? Come at once or expect an aunt's curse first post tomorrow. Love. Travers.

Nephew: When you say "Come" do you mean "Come to Brinkley Court"? And when you say "At once" do you mean "At once"? Fogged. At a loss. All the best. Bertie.

Aunt: Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. It doesn't matter whether you understand or not. You just come at once, as I tell you, and for heaven's sake stop this back-chat. Do you think I am made of money that I can afford to send you telegrams every ten minutes. Stop being a fathead and come immediately. Love.Travers.

Nephew: Expect me tomorrow fortnight' ...

Here is another example:

(To) Fink-Nottle
Brinkley Court,
Market Snodsbury
Worcestershire

Bertie: Lay off the sausages. Avoid the ham. Bertie.

Fink-Nottle: Cipher telegram signed by you has reached me here. Runs "Lay off the sausages. Avoid the ham." Wire key immediately. Fink-Nottle.

Bertie: kidneys. Cheerio. Bertie.

Aunt: Am taking legal advice to ascertain whether strangling an idiot nephew counts as murder. If it doesn't look out for yourself. Consider your conduct frozen limit. What do you mean by planting your loathsome friends on me like this? Do you think Brinkley Court is a leper colony or what is it? Who is this Spink-Bottle? Love. Travers.

Bertie: Not Bottle. Nottle. Regards. Bertie.

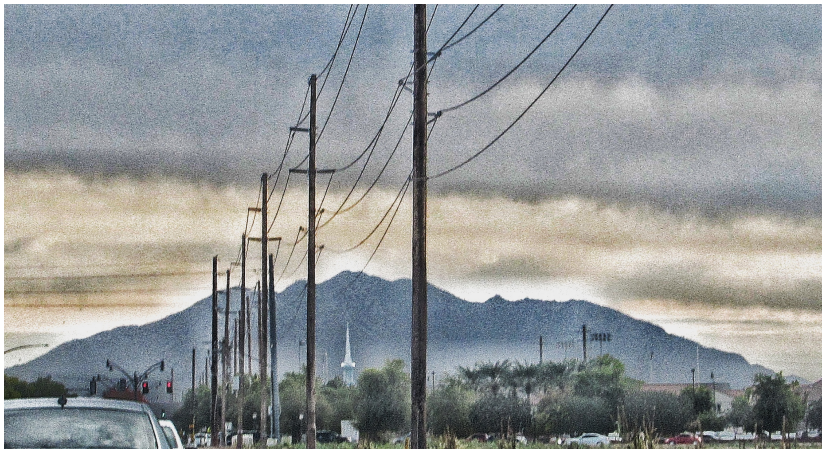
Aunt: Well, this friend of yours has got here, and I must say that for a friend of yours he seems less sub-human than I had expected. A bit of a pop-eyed bleater, but on the whole clean and civil, and certainly most informative about newts. Am considering arranging a series of lectures for him in neighborhood. All the same I like your nerve using my house as a summer hotel resort and shall have much to say to you on subject when you come down. Expect you thirtieth. Bring spats. Love. Travers.

Bertie: On consulting engagement book find impossible come Brinkley Court. Deeply regret. Toodle oo. Bertie.

Aunt: Oh, so it's like that, is it? You and your engagement book, indeed. Deeply regret my foot. Let me tell you, my lad, that you will regret it a jolly sight more deeply if you don't come down. If you imagine for one moment that you are going to get out of distributing those prizes, you are very much mistaken. Deeply regret Brinkley Court hundred miles from London, as unable hit you with a brick. Love. Travers.

Bertie: No, but dash it, listen. Honestly, you don't want me. Get Fink-Nottle to distribute prizes. A born distributor, who will do you credit. Confidently anticipate Augustus Fink-Nottle as Master of Revels on thirty-first inst. Would make genuine sensation. Do not miss this great chance, which may never occur again. Tinkerty-tonk. Bertie.

Aunt: Well, all right. Something in what you say, I suppose. Consider you treacherous worm and contemptible, spineless cowardly custard, but have booked Spink-Bottle. Stay where you are, then, and I hope you get run over by an omnibus. Love. Travers.



Part Two: Family

Chapter Ten: Parents

Who Were Bertie Wooster's parents? Did he have parents? I suppose everyone has parents, but does anyone know who Bertie's parents were?

Bertram Wilberforce Wooster's world, as most of his friends know, is overpopulated with Aunts and Uncles of all sorts, but fathers and mothers are somewhat a rarity. Bertie seldom speaks of his own parents, though he must have had a pair of them sometime. He states on several occasions that his father is no longer among the living, but gives few other details. So who exactly were his parents and what were they like? If we are to rely on what Bertie Wooster will tell us, the world may never know the answer to these questions.

As far as his blood linage is concerned, Bertie says that he descended from the grand old Sieur de Wooster who fought at the Battle of Agincourt. But, that statement tells us nothing about his parents.

As far as the world knows, Bertie Wooster's parents have no names with the assumption that their last name was also Wooster. They have had no known titles, occupations or even addresses. Everything that can be known about these two people, (which is extremely little), has been related by Bertie himself.

In reading between the lines in the whimsical stories that Bertie tells about his life, two pieces of information come clear. First, Bertie Wooster did at one time have parents , and second, for most of his childhood and adolescence, he was raised by his extended family, namely Aunts and Uncles. Did his parents both die at a young age, or were they just not available because they were posted overseas in India or some other far-flung place? No one really knows.

We only know that by the time Bertie had left the university, he started referring to his Aunt Dahlia as the sister of his late father. One but could only wonder whether more active father and mother figures during

his critical development years would have saved Bertram Wooster from suffering from his lack of resilience and determination later on in life.

The following is a list of assumptions one may make about Bertie Wooster's parents:

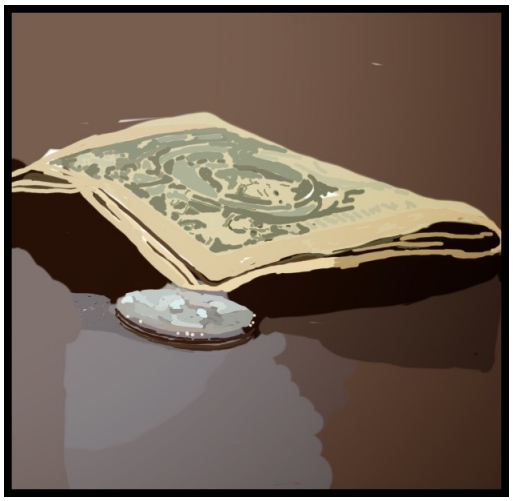
1. We know that Bertie Wooster's father has already passed away by the time we meet him in his first short story, but the fact that his mother is never mentioned we may also assume that she is also dead.
2. Most likely Mr. and Mrs. Wooster (Bertie's Parents) had money. Everyone belonging to Bertie's extended family, including Bertie himself, seem to have sufficient funds to live well and without working.

3. The Wooster parents only had one child, little Bertram. Bertie says that he has no brothers and Bertie later mentions to his friend Chuffy that he has no sisters. Therefore, it is assumed that Bertie is an only child.

4. Bertie's father had at least one and probably two sisters. Bertie tells all that his Aunt Dahlia is his father's sister and it is assumed that Agatha is Dahlia's sister. His father also had a brother, Henry (deceased) who is the father of Bertie's wild twin cousins Claud and Eustace.

5. Either Bertie's mother or father had a brother named Willoughby (sir name unknown) and also a brother George, Lord Yaxley. Aunt Agatha is always concerning herself with the affairs of Bertie's Uncle George, which leads to the supposition that George may also be a Wooster.

6. Bertie Wooster's grandparents on either side of the family are never mentioned. Again, one assumes that his parents had parents, but they are just not talked about.

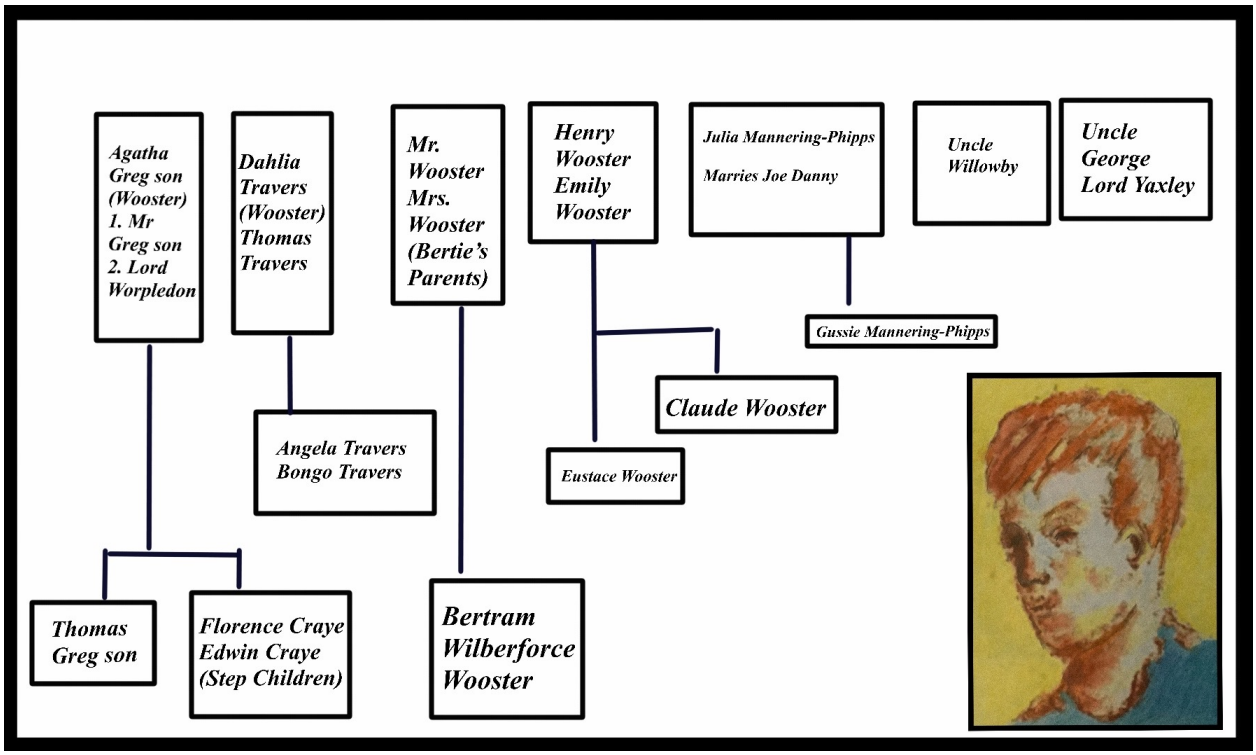


Chapter Eleven: Family Money

Where did Bertie's family get their money? When Bertie Wooster is first introduced to the world, Bertie explains that he has an Uncle Willoughby who he is required to visit every so often. Bertie, goes on to say that he depends on this Uncle Willoughby for financial reasons, meaning that this uncle is either a trustee of Bertie's own money or as a giver of an allowance coming from his uncle's own money. This is the first and last reference to this uncle who doles out the cash. Later references to wealth seem to indicate that Bertie has full control of his own financial dealings. He is never again said to have to beg or borrow from any other family member. So, what happened to this mysterious Uncle Willoughby? Why does he disappear from Bertie's social as well as financial life? Just like many other questions about Bertie 's family, no one, but Bertie Wooster, knows.

Chapter Twelve: The Wooster Family Tree

As can be seen in the family tree diagramed below, not all is known about Bertie Wooster's extended family. Bertie most likely has other aunts, uncles and cousins that are not listed here.



Chapter Thirteen: Aunts and Uncles

In the Wooster family, as in other Wodehouse families, the aunts dictate the rules for life. Their word is the law and heaven help the nephew who crosses an aunt. Bertie has two such aunts, one the “good” aunt and the other the one who Bertie says “eats bottles”. Both of these aunts demand total obedience to their every command, but in all other ways they are complete opposites.

Bertie does not talk about his uncles as much as he does his aunts. Still, he does have a few fairly interesting uncles. One such uncle, who remains unnamed, would climb trees at the age of 76 when under the influence of too much port.

Below I have listed several of Bertie’s aunts and uncles with whom he has spent much time:

1. Aunt Dahlia Travers:

Dahlia is Bertie's "good" aunt. She is described as being hearty, large and boisterous. A member of the Quorn and Pytchley fox hunting organizations, she always speaks with a voice that is loud enough to carry across large fields.

For years, Dahlia owned and managed the ladies magazine, Milady Boudoir, an enterprise that continually ate up a great quantity of family resources just to keep it in the black. Dahlia is constantly looking for articles from expensive authors to lend the magazine a touch of class. At other times, as has been mentioned, she tried to save money by getting family and friends to write the articles for her. This is why she once asked Bertie to write an article on "What the Best Dressed Gentleman is Wearing."

Dahlia loves gambling at Cannes. Her game is baccarat and she generally loses at it, a fact that increases her need for extra money to run her woman's magazine.

Dahlia is a very straightforward person and says what she thinks. If she disagrees with someone, she has been known to break things just to settle her nerves. Once, while she and Bertie were staying at the home of Sir Watkyn Bassett, her anger was responsible for her breaking every piece of art in Bertie's bedroom, including a porcelain statue of the boy Samuel praying.

With all of her gruffness, Aunt Dahlia is really a kindhearted person who loves her nephew Bertram. Generally, Bertie will do most anything for this "aged" relative, but sometimes she will ask too much, especially when it involves asking Bertie to commit a crime. For example, she once almost forcefully made Bertie steal a silver cow creamer from Sir Watkyn Bassett because Dahlia wanted the creamer for her own husband. In the end, Bertie failed to steal it and Dahlia had to pinch the silver antique herself. She needed please her husband so that he would let her have more money. But, then again, that seems to be what people like Dahlia will do when faced with such a crisis.

Uncle Thomas Travers:

Aunt Dahlia is married to Thomas Travers, a man of considerable wealth. Tom Travers has two passions in life, both of which cost him dearly. The first passion is eating. However, Tom can rarely eat the foods he really likes, such as lobster, without becoming painfully sick. To avoid this problem, the Traverses have employed one of the worlds greatest and most expensive French chefs to cook meals that will not offend Tom's stomach. Tom's second passion is collecting antique silver. Tom is more than willing to pay any price for a silver plate or bowl. He has even been known to trade his household servants for a friend's piece of silver. Tom hates burglars and house fires. He bars the first and hampers the second. He even holds his own family fire drills just to practice in case of a house fire. Tom hates vacationing in France unlike his wife Dahlia, but he will yearly send his wife to Cannes with their daughter and sometimes Bertie.

Aunt Agatha Gregson, Lady Worplesdon:

Bertie's other aunt is Agatha Gregson. In the early stories, Agatha is a Gregson by marriage. Mr. Gregson must have died some at time because she later marries Lord Percival Worplesdon and becomes Lady Worplesdon. Agatha is often referred to as the aunt who "eats broken bottles and wears barbed wire." Unlike his Aunt Dahlia, who Bertie loves, Bertie will go out of his way to avoid his Aunt Agatha. Agatha frequently tasks Bertie to do her bidding just as Dahlia does, but the difference between the two is that while Bertie may find it distasteful to ever let Dahlia down, he only obeys Agatha out of fear.

Uncle Spencer Gregson: (Agatha's First Husband)

Very little is known about Agatha's first husband. He will require greater research by this author if more is to be said about this man.

Uncle Percy, Lord Worplesdon: (Agatha's Second Husband)

Of the little Bertie will tell about his Uncle Percy, Lord Worplesdon, his favorite story comes from a time long before the good lord married his Aunt Agatha. Bertie was just a teenager and had stolen one of Lord Worplesdon's good cigars. Just as Bertie was in the act of smoking it, he is discovered in the back garden by Worplesdon and is made to pay for his bad deed.

Aunt Emily Wooster:

Emily is married to Henry Wooster and is the mother of the twins, Claude and Eustace

Uncle Henry Wooster:

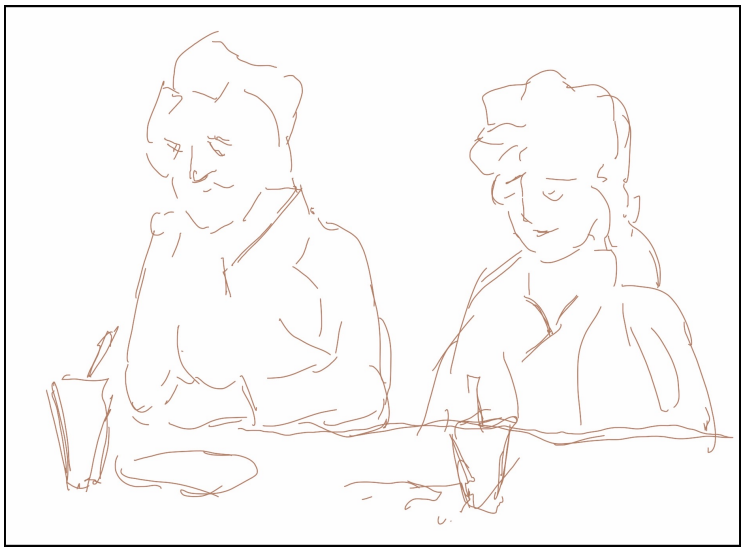
Henry raised pigs and died of pneumonia three years about before we even meet Bertie.

Uncle Willoughby and Uncle George, Lord Yaxley:

Very little is known about Bertie's Uncle Willoughby, Uncle Henry or Uncle George, Lord Yaxley. They have each been mentioned once or twice in a story told by Bertie, but do not seem to interact with Bertie on a regular basis. One can understand Uncle Henry staying away as that he was deceased even before we meet Bertie for the first time. But, the other two seem to interact with Bertie on a regular basis. Uncles Willoughby and George, though still living, stay pretty much out of Bertie's hair.

Aunt Julia Mannering-Phips:

Julia is a sister-in-law to Agatha. In her youth Julia was on the stage until her family dragged her off to marry into society. She had one child, Gussie, who is said to be a cousin to Bertie. Her husband, Mr. Mannering-Phips later died and Julia eventually became engaged to Joe Danby, an actor she knew while she was in vaudeville. Her son also was engaged to Joe Danby's daughter Ray.



Chapter Fourteen: The Cousins

With no brothers or sisters, Cousins are the only relatives Bertie Wooster has who are of his own generation. Bertie has at least five known first cousins and two step cousins. However, it seems that, with the exception of his cousin Angela, Bertie only infrequently interacts with his other cousins.

His Cousin Thomas, is one that Bertie doesn't like. Claude and Eustace are seen only once, but they seem a bit wild even for Bertie. Bozo, if he really exists, has never been seen. In fact, Bertie has had more dealings with his step cousins Florence and Edwin than he has with most of his "real" cousins.

Thomas Gregson, Son of Agatha Gregson, Lady Worplesdon, is not one of Bertie Wooster's favorite relatives. Bertie complains fervently of the times that his Aunt Agatha has enlisted Bertie's services in caring for her son Thomas when he (Thomas) comes to London. Bertie generally is ordered to take Thomas to see a show at the Old Victoria Theater, but Thomas usually has other ideas than going to show. Bertie is never on great terms with his Aunt Agatha and Thomas' visits typically make things worse. Bertie was however was once very impressed with Thomas because Thomas somehow was successful marooning a Cabinet Minister on an island in the middle of a lake with an angry swan.

Claude and Eustace Wooster, twin Sons of Henry Wooster [i] are members of the seeker's club at Oxford. These two wild young men were responsible for breaking up Bertie's engagement to Honoria Glossop, the daughter of Sir Roderick Glossop the renowned "Loony Doctor." The twins set in motion a minor crime scheme that left Bertie

holding their stolen loot, including a number of cats, a dead fish, and Glossop's own top hat. Glossop, on deciding that Bertie is either insane or a kleptomaniac refused to let Bertie marry his daughter.

Bonzo Travers,[ii] Is the son of Dahlia Travers. Not a lot is written about Bonzo. He certainly does not star in any of his own stories and is never mentioned by his sister Angela. Once while in school at Malvern House, Bramley-on-Sea, (Bertie's old school) he contracted the German measles and his mother went to go nurse him back to health. With the exception of the knowledge that Bertie doesn't think too much of this younger cousin, he remains quite a mysterious figure. No one even seems to know whether the name Bonzo is his real given name or just a nickname.

Angela Travers is the daughter of Bertie's Aunt Dahlia Travers and is featured in many an interesting story. She has been engaged off and on to Tuppy Glossop (nephew of Sir Roderick) for what seems forever. One time, Tuppy and Angela have a temporary falling out when Tuppy refuses to believe that Angela was almost attacked by a shark[iii] while vacationing in France. Angela, in this case, as in most cases, is a stubborn, pig-headed young lady, but in the end is persuaded to take her beloved Tuppy back.

Gussie Manering-Phipps is Bertie's cousin and his Aunt Agatha's nephew. [iv] All that is know about this young man is that he immigrated to the United States, probably New York City for reasons unknown. Aunt Agatha later dispatches Bertie Wooster to New York on a mission to keep Gussie from marrying a stage actress, a failed mission because as Bertie points out that the marriage took place anyway. [v]

Florence Craye, Daughter of Lord Worplesdon is Bertie's step cousin. Bertie knew both Florence and her younger brother Edwin long before these two actually joined the extended Wooster family. Years before Bertie's Aunt Agatha took a second husband by marrying their father, Lord Worplesdon, the teenager Bertie Wooster used to hang around the Craye homestead probably looking for trouble. It should be remembered that at the tender age of fifteen, Bertie had already been caught, and prosecuted with a hunting crop for stealing cigars from the Craye family supplies. At one time, for a very short period, Bertie was engaged to Florence. She being an author of the best selling book, Spindrift [vi], wanted Bertie to always be improving his mind by reading such philosophers as Spinoza.

Edwin Craye, Son of Lord Worplesdon, more commonly known as Edwin the Boy Scout, spends his time doing good deeds that usually turn out to be disastrous deeds. The most famous of these deeds was when he burned down Bertie's country house trying to clean the kitchen fireplace.

Notes:

[i] The World of Jeeves, Thank You, Jeeves

[ii] Right Ho, Jeeves

[iii] The Artistic Career of Corky

[iv]Family Page 26

[v] Joy in the Morning

[vi] Bertie Wooster Sees it Through

Chapter Fifteen: Family Residences

The Wooster Family and friends live in many different parts of England. Some members of the family have both town and country homes which they bounce back and forth between. The following list of addresses has been compiled from a search of all the Bertie Wooster stories and novels. Undoubtedly there are more addresses that are still unknown, such as Bertie Wooster's New York City address, which is located somewhere north of Washington Square. Also undiscovered is Aunt Agatha's residence before she married Lord Worplesdon.

WoosterFamily Residences:

	House Address
Bertie Wooster	3A, Berkeley Mansions, Berkeley Square, London W1[i]
Bertie Wooster	6a, Crichton Mansions, Berkeley Square, London W1
Bertie Wooster (country cottage-burnt down)[ii]	Wee Nooke, Bumpleigh Hall, Steeple Bumpleigh, Hampshire
Bertie Wooster	Seaview Cottage, Chuffnell Regis, Somersetshire
Bertie Wooster	St. Aurea Hotel, New York, NY (Aunt and the Slugard)
Dahlia and Thomas Travers (country home)	Brinkley Court, Market Snodsbury, Worcestershire
Dahlia and Thomas Travers (town home)	47Charles Street, Berkeley Square, London W1
Aunt Agatha, Lady Worplesdon (2nd marriage)	Bumpleigh Hall, Steeple Bumpleigh, Hampshire

Aunt Agatha, Mrs. Spencer Gregson (1st marriage)	(unknown)
Uncle Willoughby	Easeby, Shropshire
Uncle George, Lord Yaxley	Harrogate, Yorkshire (Heath Spa)
Claude and Eustace Wooster	Oxford
Julia Mannering-Phipps	Beechwood
Joe Danby	133 Street, New York NY
SirReginald and Lady Katherine Witherspoon[iii]	Bleaching Court, Upper Bleaching, Hants.

Friends andAssociates

SirWatkyn Bassett	Totleigh Towers, Totleigh-in-the-Wold, Gloucestershire
Jimmy Briscoe	Eggesford Hall, Maiden Eggesford, Somersetshire
G.D'Arcy Cheesewright	Steeple Bumpleigh, Hampshire
Lord Marmaduke Chuffnell	Chuffnell Hall, Chuffnell Regis, Somersetshire
Cook	Eggesford Court, Maiden Eggesford, Somersetshire
Gussie Fink-Nottle	Lincolnshire
Boko Fittleworth	Steeple Bumpleigh, Hampshire
SirRoderick Glossop	Ditteredge Hall, Hampshire [iv]
Esmond Haddock [v]	Deverill Hall, King's Deverill, Hants.
Richard "Bingo" Little	St. John's Wood, London[vi]
Mortimer Little, Lord Bittlesham (Bingo's uncle)	Number 16, Pounceby Gardens, London[vii]
Mrs. P.B. Pigott (Aunt of Jeeves)	Balmoral, Mafeking Road, Maiden Eggesford, Somersetshire
Major Plank	Gloucestershire
Hilda Stretchley-Budd[viii]	Kingham Manor, Pershore, Worcestershire
Freddie Threepwood	Blandings Castle, Blandings, Shropshire

Roberta “Bobbie” Wickham	Hertfordshire
Lord Wickhammersley[ix]	Twing Hall, Twing, Gloucestershire
Mrs. H.H. Wintergreen[x]	Pont Street, London
J. Washburn Stoker	East Sixty-seventh Street, New York, NY
Bruce "Corky" Corcoran	Washington Square, New York NY
Rockmetteller "Rocky" Todd	Long Island, NY

Part Three: Non-Woosters and Friends

Chapter Sixteen: Friends

As a young man without a brother or sister, Bertie Wooster's life is centered on his friends and extended family. Bertie, who has a strong sense of friendship and duty to his close friends, maintains unbreakable ties to his schoolmates, their sisters, cousins and associates. This crowd, belongs to the somewhat rich and idle crowd and will frequently gather at various country houses, exclusive city clubs and expensive restaurants with the intent of just "getting through life" without any extra exertion.

In many ways, Bertie treats these friends as his true family. They interact with him much in the way that real brothers and sisters do. No matter what fire he may pass through for the sake of an old school friend, Bertie remains a "true blue" friend of the most loyal kind. A schoolmate's need overrules many a desire to run away from a hardship or painful experience. In the case of girl friends, many of which Bertie has briefly been engaged to, certain ties of loyalty remain even after the engagement has been broken off. Though, the ties to his schoolmates are much stronger than those to his female associates, Bertie states that his feelings toward former fiancées are like those of a brother to a sister.

Peer pressure weighs heavy on Bertram Wooster's shoulders. Although Bertie may think he has a strong backbone and can resist most persuasion from others to do that which he does not wish to do, the truth is that his schoolmates have a stronger pull on Bertie than he would like to admit. He may shout and complain, but in the end Bertie caves in to peer pressure.

Almost every time he turns around, one of Bertie's old school friends will ask him to participate in an outrageous scheme, many times conceived by Jeeves, to convince "A" that "B" should be allowed to marry "C". When Bertie fails to sign up with the scheme of the day, his friends will ask usually him if "this is the Bertie Wooster they remember from schooldays who would do anything for a friend." Bertie's will then crumbles and he will proceed to do something for his friends that he usually knows he shouldn't be doing. This very weakness, the inability to say "No" to a friend is the major reason Bertie often finds himself in more trouble than he can handle.

Chapter Seventeen: School Chums

1.Bingo Little

Richard “Bingo” Little is possibly Bertie Wooster’s closest friend, though no novel was ever written about him. Bingo does figure in many of the Bertie Wooster short stories. Bingo has one aspect to his personality that stands out from all the rest; He falls in love instantly with any and every girl he meets. This happens over and over again until finally Bingo meets by accident the famous romance novelist Rosie M. Banks, the future Mrs. Little. Bingo’s girl friends include: Mabel waitress, Honoria Glossop, Daphne Braythwayt, Charlotte Corday Rowbotham[i], Cynthia Wickhammersley, and Mary Burgess. Bingo tutored Oswald, Honoria’s brother, who later Bertie pushes in water for Bingo to save, thus winning the sister’s love.

2. Tuppy Glossop

Tuppy Glossop loves Bertie’s cousin Angela. He also loves to eat. Tuppy is jealous of the first fact and sensitive of the second. Any young man who even looks on Angela is suspected by Tuppy of being in love with her. Any time Tuppy upsets Angela (usually because he is over jealous) she accuses him of loving his food more than he loves her. Tuppy is also a “fat-head” who has never learned the meaning of tact. When his betroth has been scared by a shark while at the beach, without thinking he tells Angela that she must have mistaken it for a flatfish. This episode results in Angela again reminding Tuppy that he is a food -addicted “fat-head” who is not worthy of her notice. Tuppy retaliates by following Bertie’s advice and refuses to eat the extraordinary meals cooked by Angela’s family chef. But, Angela takes no notice of this supreme effort, which is when she calls him a food addicted “fat-head.” In short, theirs is a perfect Wodehouse relationship and always a great subplot to any Bertie Wooster story.

Bertie’s one reoccurring memory of Tuppy Glossop happened on night at the Drones club when Tuppy bet that Bertie, dressed in his best evening wear, could not swing across the series of rings that spanned the club swimming pool. As Bertie near the end of the rings, he found that Tuppy had removed the end rings so that Bertie could not safely reach the shore. Bertie hung on as long as he could, but in the end had to drop fully clothed into the water. After his painful experience, Bertie found that it would be years before he could come to forgive Tuppy.

3. Marmaduke, Lord Chuffnell, Chuffy

Bertie has known Chuffy from his earliest school days. But, Bertie didn't even learn Chuffy's real first name until he was informed of it by Pauline Stoker. Chuffs sells his hall, or country home, to Mr. Stoker to be used for Doctor Glossop’s loony bin. Chuffs meets Pauline Stoker in London sometime after Bertie's engagement to Pauline had fizzled. Chuffy takes Pauline to the Zoo and Madam Tussuad's while in London. He coached rowing at Oxford.

4. Gussie Fink-Nottle

Gussie is probably the most eccentric of all Bertie Wooster’s friends, Gussie Fink-Nottle wears horn-rimmed glasses and has a face like a fish. Bertie says they had lost touch a bit in recent years, but he recalls that Gussie and him had once thrown inked darts at each other (most likely in school). Gussie lives in a remote village in Lincolnshire and raises newts. Gussie is a newt fancier or is said to have a newt complex, and this is something he had done ever since his school days. He does not drink alcohol and only indulges on orange juice,

Here is a regular conversation between Bertie and Gussie. Gussie will say, “Look at newts.”During the courting season the male newt is brilliantly colored and it helps him a lot." Bertie then says, “But, you aren't a male newt." Gussie goes on to describe the male newt form of dancing, to which Bertie replies, ‘No, you wouldn't find me grousing if I were a male newt." Gussie then explains that Bertie isn’t a male newt, but if he were"a male newt, Madeline Bassett wouldn't look at (Bertie). Not with the eye of love.’Do you know how a male newt proposes, Bertie? He just stands in front of the female newt vibrating his tail and bending his back.

About two years ago, Bertie had looked in at Gussie’s place while on a motor trip, and Gussie had put Bertie right off his feed by bringing a couple of green things with legs to the luncheon table, crooning over them like a young mother and eventually losing one of them right before Bertie’s eyes. That didn't give Bertie much confidence in the unfortunate goof's ability to woo and win, Especially if the girl he had was a salad.

5. Herald “Stinker” Pinker

The Rev. Stinker Pinker attended Oxford with Bertie Wooster. Stinker, a rather large and clumsy gentle giant, played varsity rugby while in college. After school, he went into the church and became a curate in the neighborhood ofTotleigh-in-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, the same community in that Sir Watkins Bassett resides. Stinker is in love with Sir Watkyn’s ward, Stiffy Bing, but Sir Watkin does not want the two to marry. In order to save his relationship with Stiffy and win approval for the marriage from Sir Watkyn, Stinker is forced to steal a policeman’s helmet, punch the same policeman in the nose, and fall off ladders from a second story balcony.

6. G. D’Arcy “Stilton” Cheesewright

Stilton is not a close friend of Bertie’s. He is not mentioned a lot, but when he is mentioned it is not always in a positive way as concerning Bertie.

7. Pongo Twistleton

Pongo Twistleton's birthday is 26 July. His birthday was celebrated on the 26th the day after Bertie returned home from Cannes one summer. This is the party held at the Drones club at which Bertie had proposed to Jeeves that he would wear his new white mess jacket that Jeeves dislikes.

8. Catsmeat Potter-Perbright

Catsmeat Potter-Pirbright once stayed with Bertie for a whole week and began to use large words like " gauging somebody's latent potentialities." Before this he didn't even know that the English language had words with more than one syllable.

9. Oofy Prossor

Oofy is the richest member of the Drones Club. Everyone has lots of money, or lives off of someone with lots of money, but no one has more money than Oofy.

10. Freddie Widgeon right ho 22

Freddie is mentioned a lot by almost everyone, but is rarely actually seen with Bertie. Freddy seems to be a good friend to all who know him.

11. Sippy Sipperley

Sippy had known Gussie Fink-Nottle at University and he was once engaged to Elizabeth Moon.

12. Rockmetteller Todd:

Todd Is a poet who lives on Long Island NY. Bertie knew him rather well when he was living in New York. Rocky receives an allowance from an aunt. He writes poems which he sells to magazines such as:

Be!
Be!
The past is dead.
Tomorrow is not born.
Be today!

(Note: The names of people in Bertie's world are sometimes very strange. It is sometimes hard to determine if a name is a true given one or if it is a nickname.)

Chapter Eighteen: Girl Friends

Bertie explains that the fact that he looks like a "loony sheep or is it lonely sheep" which just hangs around is what brings out the maternal instincts of women and makes them want to become engaged to him. Thankfully, this effect wears off rather quickly and the engagements have never taken hold.

Bertie Wooster has been engaged to more young women than just about anyone else in P.G. Wodehouse's world. Only Bingo Little reviles Bertie's record. But, the difference between Bertie and Bingo is the fact that Bingo was trying to get engaged and Bertie just found out, sometimes second hand, that he has again become engaged. This section is devoted to the special women in Bertie Wooster's life, many of whom have for a time honored him as being his temporary fiancée.

Bertie has said that he has gotten engaged at Brinkley court on three different occasions, make that four if you count his engagement to the Bassett. There have been many girl friends in Bertie Wooster's life. He has even been engaged to many of these young women, yet in all probability, Bertie has never been in love with any of them. The real questions are: 1. Why would Bertie ask someone to marry him with whom he is not in love? And, 2. Why would any female in her right mind agree to marry someone like Bertie Wooster? Listed below are only some of the many girls who have made an impact, both positively and negatively, on Bertie, but mostly on the negative side.

1. Florence Craye

Bertie's first engagement was to Florence Craye, Bertie's future step cousin. In the very first story of Bertie we are introduced to Florence. This story concerns an extremely brief engagement of Bertie and Florence. Later, run-ins with Florence cause Bertie to regret he ever was engaged to her. In the end, she finally marries a somewhat friend of Bertie, Stilton Cheesewright. Florence is an intellectual molding type of girl, just the type that obviously conflicts with someone of Bertie's temperament.

2. Honoria Glossop

Bertie's second engagement. Was to Honoria Glossop at the Glossop family Ditteredge Hall, it was here that Bertie Pushed Honoria's brother into the water in order to help Bingo win Honoria's love by saving him. The plan backfired and Bertie found himself unwillingly engaged.

3. Pauline Stokes

Pauline Stokes, the Daughter of an American Millionaire, was engaged to marry Bertie Wooster for about four days while Bertie was staying in New York City. Bertie proposes to her at the Plaza. The marriage was called off after Sir Roderick Glossop, the loony doctor, convinced Pauline's father that Bertie was an insane purloiner of other people's cats, dead fish and hats. During their 4 days of engagement, Bertie and Pauline found time to take day trips to Piping Rock on Long Island and to the "wilds" of Westchester County where Bertie's car broke down in the rain.

Later, in an act of irony, Pauline's father locks Bertie in a stateroom on his private yacht in order to force Bertie into marrying Pauline, even though neither loved each other. Like most sticky situations Bertie finds himself in, Jeeves rescued him and made everything turn out all right in the end.

Pauline is described as an over active outdoors type of person who really would not suit someone like Bertram Wooster. She ironically attempts to prove this point by jumping off her father's boat in the middle of the night, wearing Bertie's pajamas and swimming over to Bertie's cottage near the harbor.

Even though Pauline's father claims at the time of Bertie's kidnapping that he has only one daughter, a second daughter, Emerald eventually turns up at a much later date and further involves Bertie in more intrigue. Pauline later becomes engaged to Bertie's old friend Lord Chuffnell.

4. Madeline Bassett, "The Bassett"

Bertie and Madeline first meet in Cannes where Madeline had became a friend of Bertie's cousin, Angela Travers.Bertie says that he would stare at Madeline wishing that some vehicle would come down the road and run her over.

Despite his negative feelings towards her, Bertie Wooster becomes engaged to Madeline Bassett more times than any other girl. Madeline is a girl with a very soft brain and who in direct opposition to the plain facts is firmly convinced that Bertie is madly in love with her. Bertie cannot stand the girl because of her dopey, sentimental ideas like the stars are god's daisy chains and that rabbets are really little gnomes.

For a time, Madeline thinks that she would like to marry Bertie's newt-loving friend Gussie Fink-Nottle, but finally settles for becoming Lady Sidcup when she eventually marries the dictator Roderick Spode, Lord Sidcup.

Madeline is said to have a personality that paralyses the vocal cords and reduces the contents of the brain to a cauliflower. When a girl suddenly asks you out of a blue sky if you don't sometimes feel that the stars are God's daisy-chain, you begin to think a bit something might not be connected in her head.

5. Mrs. Bingo Little (Rosie M. Banks)

It has been said of Rosie that it is not her beauty, mark you, that thus numbs (one). She is a pretty enough girl in a droopy, blonde, saucer-eyed way, but not the sort of girl that takes that takes the breath away.

6. Stiffy Bying

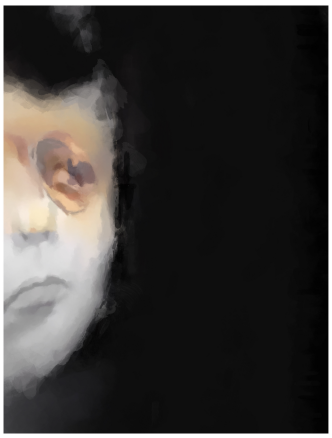
Stephanie "Stiffy" Bying is a cousin of Madeline Bassett and a ward of Sir Watkyn Bassett. She lives with Madeline and Sir Watkyn in their country home at Totleigh Towers, Totleigh-in-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. She owns a mean little dog name ???

7. Zenobia “Nobby” Hopwood

Bobby is a ward of Bertie’s Uncle Percy.

8. Bobbie Wickham

Roberta “Bobbie” Wickham is probably the most interesting and colorful girl friend of Bertie Wooster’s. She is both fun and playful, but will generally take her games too far, such as puncturing hot water bottles in guests beds while they are sleeping.



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Chapter Nineteen: The Anti-Bertie Gang

Though it may be hard to believe, Bertie Wooster is not universally loved by all. Throughout his life, he has been pursued by despiteful and pessimistic detractors, mostly men if his Aunt Agatha is excluded from this gang, who have made it their business to rid the world of Bertie Wooster and this ilk.

These men represent the hard, cold respectable society where enjoyment has been outlawed and youth is something to repress. These are men of money and power who think nothing of crushing a insignificant insect like Bertie Wooster under their heals.

1. Sir Roderick Glossop (Loony Doctor)

When Sir Roderick was a medical student he used to sing at smoking concerts. He has a baritone voice. He once sang for Seabury, the son of Lady Chuffnell, just to please the boy's mother. He is the President of the West London Branch of the Anti-Gambling League, drinks no wine, and hates smoking.
Sir Roderick also believes coffee causes nerve troubles and he hates cats. He has bushy eyebrows and a bawled head much like the dome of “Saint Paul’s.”

Sir Roderick holds the following things against Bertie:

1. Storing cats in Bertie’s bedroom
2. Puncturing holes in guest bedroom hot water bottles at Bobbie Wickham’s home
3. Stealing Sir Roderick’s hat on the street
4. Sliding down the outside pipes at a country house

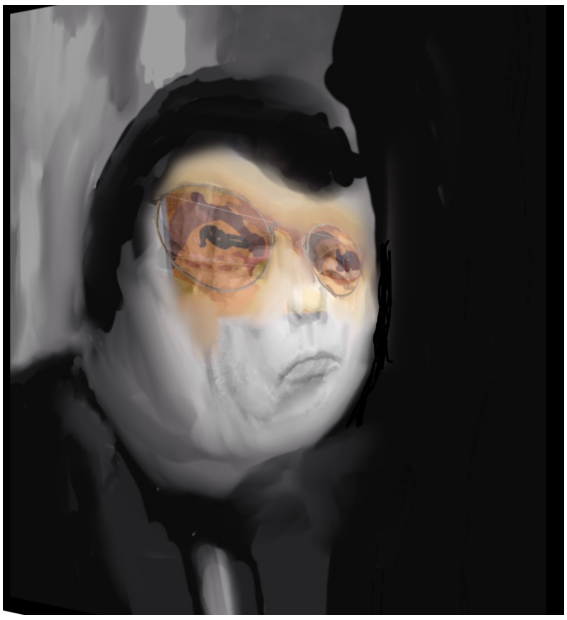
For all of these reasons, Sir Roderick believes that Bertie is unbalanced.

As has already been mentioned, Sir Roderick “Roddy” Glossop is a well-known loony doctor, or nerve specialist who weaves his way in and out of Bertie’s life. Sir Roderick is the Father of Bertie’s one time fiancée Honoria and the uncle of Tuppy Glossop, Bertie’s friend and future cousin-in-law. Glossop who is deathly afraid of cats, encountered several stolen cats being stockpiled away in Bertie’s flat, an event that led Sir Roderick to break up his daughter’s wedding plans with Bertie. Later he also broke up the

wedding plans for Bertie and Pauline Stokes. After that, Sir Roderick entices Pop Stokes, the American millionaire, to buy Chuffnell Hall from Bertie's school chum Lord Chuffnell and turn it into a psychiatric hospital or loony bin.

Though Sir Roderick starts out extremely unfriendly to Bertie Wooster, in the end the two eventually come to terms with each other. This happens when they are forced to spend a portion of a night protecting each other from Bertie's short-term homicidal, pyromaniac, valet Brinkley.

Sir Roderick lives in Ditteredge Hall, Hampshire near Bertie's Aunt Agatha.
Sir Roderick Glossop's Patients include:



1. George, Second Cousin to J. Washburn Stoker, who walks on his hands
2. Mrs. Tinkler-Moulke, who dislikes banjolele music.

2. Roderick Spode

Roderick Spode or Lord Sidcup as he is now known was first introduced to Bertie as a despicable and intimidating sidekick of Sir Watkyn Bassett, Honoria's father. Spode, whom Bertie nicknames the Dictator, is the leader of a local Nazi-like group called the Black Shorts.

From the very beginning, Spode singles Bertie out as a troublemaker and a petty thief. An accidental meeting with Spode in a Brampton Road antique shop where Bertie picks up another customer's umbrella by mistake and then trips on a cat, falls out the door while carrying unpaid for merchandise seals his fate with the Dictator.

Spode's several attempts on Bertie Wooster's life are thwarted by Bertie's knowledge and willingness to tell of Spode's secret preoccupation with designing women's under garments under the alias of Eulaile. Every time Spode threatens Bertie, Bertie counters with the threat to expose this unutterable secret to the world thus ruining Spode's ability to command authority.

Roderick Spode's one consuming obsession in this world is Madeline Bassett. He worships the ground she walks on. When he learns that Madeline has given her word to marry Bertie, Spode first threatens to rip Bertie apart because of the engagement. After he understands that Bertie is really the "thing" his beloved Madeline has chosen, Spode then threatens to rip him up if Bertie doesn't make Madeline happy. Either way, Spode gets the pleasure of ripping Bertie up. When Madeline expresses her love for Bertie's school friend Gussie Fink-Nottle, Bertie has to save his friend from Spode's physical and verbal abuse. All are saved from such destruction when in the end, Madeline finally acknowledges her true love for Spode, the now titled Lord Sidcup.

3. Watkyn Bassett

Sir Watkyn Bassett, a magistrate down at the Bosher Street courtroom, did not like Bertie Wooster from the very beginning of their association. The first time that Sir Watkyn actually set eyes on Bertie, at least the first time on record, was in the courtroom with Sir Watkyn wearing his judicial wig and Bertie standing in the dock. This fateful occasion was the day after the Oxford and Cambridge boat races. The crime was an attempt to separate a constable from his helmet, a joy-filled, youthful activity that seems to always take place on boat night by spectators who haven't had enough excitement. After sleeping the night in a cell and giving the obligatory fake name and address, Bertie expected to get off with a stern

warning from the bench. Much to his dismay, Sir Watkyn decided to make an example of Bertie by fining him ten pounds, an outrageous sum according to Bertie.

Life would have been most pleasant for Bertram Wooster if that was all he ever had to see of the good magistrate. However, life has not been kind on that account. The next thing Bertie knows, he is hobnobbing it with Sir Watkyn's daughter in the south of France while vacationing with his Aunt Dahlia and Cousin Angela.

Shortly after that grievous mistake Bertie Wooster finds himself engaged to the forsaken daughter of Sir Watkyn's while staying as a mostly unwanted guest at the Bassett country estate, Totleigh Towers, Totleigh-in-the-Wold, Gloucestershire. Sir Watkyn and his good friend Spode the Dictator do their very best to oppose the prospective marriage and to throttle Bertie. With the aid of Jeeves and in spite of incompetence of Bertie's friend Gussie Fink-Nottle, Bertie escapes from this unwanted engagement.

4. J. Washburn "Pop" Stoker:

Mr. Stoker, the "fish-eyed" American Millionaire and father of Pauline stoker (one-time fiancée of Bertie Wooster) hates Bertie so much that he once kidnapped him in order to force his daughter to marry as a punishment. Bertie met the Stokers in New York where he quickly managed to get himself engaged to Mr. Stoker's daughter for the first time. Stoker at the time was a friend of Sir Roderick Glossop, the renowned loony doctor, who was then visiting New York himself and treating Stoker's ailing Second Cousin (sometimes referred to as his great Uncle) George Stoker. Two important events happen to Stker at that time. First, his great uncle (or second cousin) dies, leaving Stoker fifty million dollars, and second, Sir Roderick brightened his life by convincing Stoker that Bertie was too insane to marry his daughter.

Mr. Stoker next enters Bertie Woosters life as Bertie is paying a visit to Chuffnell Hall in Somersetshire. Stoker has also just sailed the family yacht into the waters near Somersetshire on an expedition to buy Chuffnell Hall. Stokes wants to renovate the old Hall and let Sir Roderick Glossop run it as a mental hospital. In the course of natural events, Pauline Stokes is caught sneaking into Bertie cottage at night and an irate Pops Stoker takes maters into his own hands. He kidnaps Bertie on his yacht, a precaution to ensure success to his plan to force Bertie and Pauline to tie the knot. As with all Bertie Wooster stories, Bertie escapes the danger and actually assists Stoker in his bid to secure the purchase of Chuffnell Hall.

Stoker was a wrestler in his youth and was born either in Carterville Tennessee or Carterville Massachusetts. The actual birthplace is something Stoker's daughter Pauline couldn't remember. Mr. Stoker also tells Bertie that he only has one daughter, Pauline. However, in later stories we learn of another daughter named "Jade."

5. Major Plank

Major Plank is an African explorer who also dislikes Bertie. Plank is convinced that Bertie is a criminal.

Part Four: Jeeves, Servants, and Policemen

Chapter Twenty: Jeeves

Now, at last I come to Jeeves. I explained earlier in this book that Jeeves is not the super hero of the Bertie Wooster world that many people have come to believe. Yes, he is smart, and yes, he does solve difficult problems. But, he is also very critical of Bertie and Bertie's lifestyle.

The following is my case against Jeeves:

1. Jeeves left Bertie simply because he couldn't stand banjole music.
2. Jeeves told Pauline Stoker that Bertie was mentally negligible.
3. Jeeves refuses to let Bertie wear the clothes that Bertie purchases for himself.
4. Jeeves discourages Bertie from ever getting married by saying that he would leave him if he ever did.
5. In short, Jeeves is either very selfish, a control freak, or at the very least unable to understand Bertie's feelings.

Jeeves has a size nine and a quarter head, eats a lot of fish, but has no ear for music.. He eats so much fish that his brain is full of phosphorus and mercury I would also guess. Maybe he is smart, but then again maybe he has also poisoned his brain. You understand, that while Jeeves may truly be talented, he is also a two dimensioned snob.

This is why this section on Jeeves, an important title character, is buried so far down in the depths of this book. Most books on this topic would start at the beginning explaining who Jeeves is and where di he come from. This would usually start on on the title page and such a book would not stop singing his praises until the last entrée in the index was reached.

The fact of the matter is that Jeeves is essential to the understanding of Bertie Wooster and his life, but it is also true that in this insane world of Bertie Wooster, everyone is crazy except for Jeeves. Jeeves could be said to be the most uninteresting person in the whole Wodehouse cast of characters. Jeeves is just a two dimensional "know it all" who always saves the day and gets top billing in the majority of the Wooster stories. Bertie, on the other hand, usually gets the short end of the stick.

A good example of this "short stick ending" business is the time when all the inhabitants of Chuffnell Hall wanted Jeeves to save the precious career and reputation of Sir Roderick Glossop, the famous loony doctor. Jeeves decides that it is best for all if they substitute Bertie for Sir Roderick, as the criminal cornered in the garden potting shed, and allow Glossop to go free. Jeeves' explanation is that it does not matter that the world thinks Bertie is insane or inept, but Sir Roderick could not out live the shame of being arrested.

On this and other occasions, Bertie Wooster is allowed to have no personal dignity. And, therefore, at least in this book, Bertie gets top billing and Jeeves gets buried in the details.

The above description of Jeeves' occasional misconduct, may be a trifle hard on Bertie Wooster's good man Jeeves. Jeeves is, after all, a miracle worker, a true genius of the highest quality, who is constantly called on to devise schemes allowing Bertie to escape many a tight spot, including numerous marriage engagements to either bossy or dopey females. Jeeves seems to really care about Bertie's well being and comfort.

Where did Jeeves come from? One source, possibly the most reliable one, states that before Jeeves found a position with Bertie Wooster, he had for a time worked for Lord Worplesdon. This is the same Lord Worplesdon who is the father of Florence and Edwin Craye and who eventually marries Bertie's Aunt Agatha Gregson. Another source, though maybe not as documented says that before he came into Bertie's employment, Jeeves had worked for Lord Brancaster, a person who fed brandy to his pet parrot and gave out prizes at the local schools. Wherever Jeeves did come from, it is still a very amazing fact that Jeeves was without work and looking for a new position just when Bertie needed a new Gentleman's Gentleman. After all, who would let someone like Jeeves go?

In still another account, Jeeves reveals that he once worked for Lord Frederick Ranelagh before he came to work for Bertie. Another story says that Jeeves also had worked for Digby Thistleton, Lord Bridgeworth.

Jeeves may have come from London as that he has at least one relative living in London. Jeeves once revealed that an un-named Aunt of his lives in south-east London and is addicted to riding in hansom cabs. His aunt would sneak out at any time no one else was looking and jump into a cab. She would sometimes sneak other people's coins just to pay for the cab.

As the reader can see, there really is not much reliable documentation on where Jeeves really came from. He appeared one day at Bertie's door and more or less stayed on.

Chapter Twenty One: Servants

1. Meadows

Meadows might have been a one time butler for Bertie. I will have to check this again.

2. Brinkley

Brinkley took over as Bertie's butler one time when Jeeves left to avoid Bertie's music. Jeeves may have gone to work during this period for Pop Stoker. Bertie thinks Brinkley is a Bolshevik and a drunk. Brinkley comes home 24 hours late, drunk and singing the hymn Lead, Kindly Light. Brinkley then takes a butcher knife to Bertie because he thinks Bertie is the Devil and ends up fighting with the Grandfather Clock and burns down Bertie's cottage..

3. Benson

Benson is Aunt Agatha's butler.

4. Seppings

Seppings is Aunt Dahlia's butler.

5. Benstead

Benstead was Pop Stoker's personal attendant in New York.

6. Anatole

Anatole is Aunt Dahlia's French cook. He could dish up the raw material so that it melted in the mouth of the ultimate consumer, Anatole was the magnet that drew guests to Brinkley Court with their tongues hanging out.

Chapter Twenty Two: Policemen

1. Sergeant Ted Voules

Ted who sells eggs in spare time, is a large man, like the Albert Hall. Ted dislikes his nephew, Constable Dobson to call him Uncle Ted while on duty. Lives next door to Bertie in the Cheffnell Regis police station. Both the police station and Bertie's Seaview cottage are burned down by the evil and very drunk butler Brinkley.. Ted slightly injures his head in fighting the fire and is taken to his Aunt Maud's home, also in Chuffnell Regis, to recover.

2. Constable Dobson

Dobson is the nephew of Ted Voules. He is a tall thin man who doesn’t understand non concrete concepts such as the house is very close, meaning the air is stuffy. When told this he will agree that the house is very near. Dobson is known to be dating the red headed girl named Mary who is the parlormaid from Chuffnell Hall in Chuffnell Regis.

3. Officer Oats

Bertie has a couple run ins with Oats, but I will have to fill in those events at a later date.

Chapter Twenty Three: Conclusion

This book has been a work in progress for many year. There is much that needs to be done to finish this book, which I will continue to work on.

Here are the sources for all Thai have written.

The Books:

Thank You, Jeeves 1934

Right Ho, Jeeves 1934
The Code of the Woosters 1938
Joy In the Morning (Jeeves in the Morning) 1946
The Mating Season 1949
The Return of Jeeves 1953
Bertie Wooster Sees It Through (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit) 1954
How Right You Are, Jeeves 1960
Stiff Upper Lip. Jeeves 1963
Much Obliged, Jeeves (Jeeves and the Tie that Binds) 1971
Aunts Aren't Gentlemen (The Cat-Nappers) 1974
World of Jeeves, Collection of Short Stories 1967